

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for surrogate control of electronic commerce transactions, comprising:
 - funding at least one surrogate account in a surrogate electronic system;
 - accessing at least one electronic commerce system through the surrogate electronic system;
 - selecting at least one item for purchase from the at least one electronic commerce system;
 - selecting at least one credit card account in the surrogate electronic system;
 - determining an amount due to complete at least one purchase transaction on the at least one electronic commerce system;
 - transferring funds equal to the amount due from the at least one surrogate account to the at least one credit card account; and
 - executing the at least one purchase transaction using the at least one credit card account;
 - reconciling transactions for the at least one credit card account, wherein reconciling includes:

maintaining a surrogate system ledger including at least one balance for
the at least one surrogate account and at least one corresponding purchase
transaction record;

periodically receiving a credit account statement ledger including purchase
transactions resulting in a change in the at least one balance; and
using the credit account statement ledger to adjust the surrogate system
ledger.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing fraud detection on at least one fund source.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein funding comprises placing funds in the at least one surrogate account from at least one fund source, wherein the at least one fund source includes at least one fund source selected from a group consisting of credit cards, checks, money orders, gift certificates, incentives, online electronic currency, Automatic Teller Machines, and stored value cards.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein funding using online electronic currency comprises:

determining a plurality of online electronic currency balances in a plurality of accounts;

aggregating an amount of online electronic currency from the plurality of accounts.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing is transparent.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
compiling records of purchase transactions completed through the surrogate
electronic system;
presenting at least one list of merchants rank ordered according to the compiled
records.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising controlling
information provided through the surrogate electronic system from the at least one
electronic commerce system.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the controlling comprises:
monitoring data streams;
performing pattern recognition on data streams transferred from the at least one
electronic commerce system;
determining content of the data streams;
controlling information provided from the at least one electronic commerce
system in response to the content.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein controlling includes at least one
operation selected from a group consisting of inserting additional information into the

data stream, substituting information in the data stream, filtering information in the data stream, and removing information from the data stream.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the controlling comprises:

assigning a surrogate electronic mail address to a user that is mapped to an actual electronic mail address of the user;

providing the surrogate electronic mail address to the at least one electronic commerce system in response to requests for the actual electronic mail address;

filtering and categorizing electronic mail received from the at least one electronic commerce system, wherein sensitive information of the surrogate electronic system is removed; and

forwarding the filtered electronic mail to the actual electronic mail address of the user.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining an amount due to complete at least one purchase transaction comprises:

determining a total amount due to complete the at least one purchase transaction;

determining a value of applicable credits selected from a group consisting of coupons, merchant incentives, and surrogate system incentives; and

subtracting the value of applicable credits from the total amount due to get the amount due.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting at least one credit card account includes determining if the available credit of the at least one credit card account is sufficient to cover a purchase amount of the at least one purchase transaction.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transferring funds comprises:
determining if a balance of the at least one surrogate account is enough to cover the amount due; and

increasing the balance of the at least one surrogate account if the balance is not enough, the increasing including receiving and aggregating funds from a plurality of fund sources.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for surrogate control of electronic commerce transactions, comprising:

a surrogate web site coupled among at least one client computer, at least one financial system, and at least one database including at least one user account, wherein the at least one user account is funded by a user with at least one user funding source;
and

at least one proxy server coupled among the at least one database, the at least one client computer, and at least one electronic merchant system, wherein at least one

purchase transaction is supported on at least one client browser and the at least one electronic merchant system through the at least one proxy server, wherein payment for the at least one purchase transaction is funded using a surrogate funding source loaded with funds from the at least one user account, the surrogate funding source comprising a credit card account, wherein the at least one proxy server reconciles transactions for the at least one user account, wherein reconciling includes:

maintaining a surrogate system ledger including at least one balance for the at least one user account and at least one corresponding purchase transaction record;

periodically receiving a credit account statement ledger including purchase transactions resulting in a change in the at least one balance; and

using the credit account statement ledger to adjust the surrogate system ledger.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising at least one fraud detection device for performing fraud detection scoring on the at least one user funding source and information associated with the user.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one user account is funded by placing funds in the at least one user account from the at least one user funding source, wherein the at least one user funding source includes at least one funding source selected from a group consisting of credit cards, checks, money orders,

gift certificates, incentives, online electronic currency, Automatic Teller Machines, and stored value cards.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein funding using online electronic currency comprises:

determining a plurality of online electronic currency balances in a plurality of accounts at a plurality of locations on at least one network;

aggregating an amount of online electronic currency from the plurality of accounts.

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one proxy server: compiles records of purchase transactions completed through the system; presents to the user at least one list of electronic merchant systems rank ordered according to the compiled records.

20. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one proxy server controls information provided through the surrogate web site from the at least one electronic merchant system, wherein the at least one proxy server includes at least one shopping proxy server and at least one email proxy server.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the controlling comprises: monitoring data streams;

performing pattern recognition on data streams transferred from the at least one electronic merchant system;

determining content of the data streams;

controlling information provided to the at least one client browser from the at least one electronic merchant system in response to the content.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein controlling includes at least one operation selected from a group consisting of inserting additional information into the data stream, substituting information in the data stream, filtering information in the data stream, and removing information from the data stream.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the controlling comprises:

assigning a surrogate electronic mail address to the user that is mapped to an actual electronic mail address of the user;

providing the surrogate electronic mail address to the at least one electronic merchant system in response to requests for the actual electronic mail address;

filtering and categorizing electronic mail received from the at least one electronic merchant system, wherein sensitive information of the system for surrogate control is removed; and

forwarding the filtered electronic mail to the actual electronic mail address of the user.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one proxy server determines an amount due to complete the at least one purchase transaction by:

determining a total amount due to complete the at least one purchase transaction;

determining a value of applicable credits selected from a group consisting of coupons, merchant incentives, and surrogate system incentives; and

subtracting the value of applicable credits from the total amount due to get the amount due.

26. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein payment for the at least one purchase includes determining if the available credit of the surrogate funding source is sufficient to cover a purchase amount of the at least one purchase transaction.

27. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein payment for the at least one purchase transaction comprises:

determining if a balance of the at least one user account is enough to cover the amount due; and

increasing the balance of the at least one user account if the balance is not enough, the increasing including receiving and aggregating funds from a plurality of fund sources.

28. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling electronic commerce transactions, comprising at least one surrogate processing system including a database coupled among at least one client computer and at least one electronic merchant system and a surrogate web site and at least one financial system and at least one transparent proxy server, wherein the at least one surrogate processing system is configured to:

fund at least one surrogate account in the database;

access the at least one electronic merchant system to allow selection of items for purchase from the at least one electronic merchant system using the at least one client computer;

select at least one surrogate credit card account;

determine an amount due to complete at least one purchase transaction on the at least one electronic merchant system;

transfer funds equal to the amount due from the at least one surrogate account to the at least one surrogate credit card account; and

execute the at least one purchase transaction using the at least one surrogate credit card account, wherein the at least one surrogate processing system is further configured to reconcile transactions for the at least one credit card account by:

maintaining a surrogate system ledger including at least one balance for the at least one surrogate account and at least one corresponding purchase transaction record;

periodically receiving a credit card account statement ledger including purchase transactions resulting in a change in the at least one balance; and

using the credit card account statement ledger to adjust the surrogate
system ledger.

29. (Original) The device of claim 28, wherein the at least one surrogate processing system is further configured to perform fraud detection scoring on at least one fund source.

30. (Original) The device of claim 28, wherein funding comprises placing funds in the at least one surrogate account from at least one fund source, wherein the at least one fund source includes at least one fund source selected from a group consisting of credit cards, checks, money orders, gift certificates, incentives, online electronic currency, Automatic Teller Machines, and stored value cards.

31. (Original) The device of claim 30, wherein funding using online electronic currency comprises:

determining a plurality of online electronic currency balances in a plurality of accounts at a plurality of locations on at least one network;

aggregating an amount of online electronic currency from the plurality of accounts.

32. (Original) The device of claim 28, wherein the at least one surrogate processing system is further configured to:

compile records of purchase transactions completed through the surrogate electronic system;

present to a user at least one list of merchants rank ordered according to the compiled records.

33. (Original) The device of claim 28, wherein the at least one surrogate processing system is further configured to control information provided through the surrogate electronic system from the at least one electronic commerce system using the at least one transparent proxy server, wherein the at least one transparent proxy server includes at least one shopping proxy server and at least one email proxy server.

34. (Original) The device of claim 33, wherein the control of information comprises:

monitoring data streams;

performing pattern recognition on data streams transferred from the at least one electronic commerce system;

determining content of the data streams;

controlling information provided to the at least one client computer from the at least one electronic commerce system in response to the content.

35. (Original) The device of claim 34, wherein controlling information includes at least one operation selected from a group consisting of inserting additional

information into the data stream, substituting information in the data stream, filtering information in the data stream, and removing information from the data stream.

36. (Original) The device of claim 33, wherein the control of information comprises:

assigning a surrogate electronic mail address to a user that is mapped to an actual electronic mail address of the user;

providing the surrogate electronic mail address to the at least one electronic commerce system in response to requests for the actual electronic mail address;

filtering and categorizing electronic mail received from the at least one electronic commerce system, wherein sensitive information of the surrogate electronic system is removed; and

forwarding the filtered electronic mail to the actual electronic mail address of the user.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Original) The device of claim 28, wherein determining an amount due to complete at least one purchase transaction comprises:

determining a total amount due to complete the at least one purchase transaction;

determining a value of applicable credits selected from a group consisting of coupons, merchant incentives, and surrogate system incentives; and

subtracting the value of applicable credits from the total amount due to get the amount due.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein selecting at least one surrogate credit card account includes determining if the available credit of the at least one surrogate credit card account is sufficient to cover a purchase amount of the at least one purchase transaction.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28, wherein transferring funds comprises:

determining if a balance of the at least one surrogate credit card account is enough to cover the amount due; and

increasing the balance of the at least one surrogate credit card account if the balance is not enough, the increasing including receiving and aggregating funds from a plurality of fund sources.

41. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the system to control electronic commerce transactions, the control comprising:

funding at least one surrogate account in a surrogate electronic system;
accessing at least one electronic commerce system through the surrogate electronic system;

selecting at least one item for purchase from the at least one electronic commerce system;

selecting at least one credit card account in the surrogate electronic system;

determining an amount due to complete at least one purchase transaction on the at least one electronic commerce system;

transferring funds equal to the amount due from the at least one surrogate account to the at least one credit card account;

executing the at least one purchase transaction using the at least one credit card account; and

reconciling transactions for the at least one credit card account, wherein reconciling includes:

maintaining a surrogate system ledger including at least one balance for the at least one surrogate account and at least one corresponding purchase transaction record;

periodically receiving a credit card account statement ledger including purchase transactions resulting in a change in the at least one balance; and

using the credit card account statement ledger to adjust the surrogate system ledger.

42. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein funding comprises placing funds in the at least one surrogate account from at least one fund source, wherein the at least one fund source includes at least one fund source selected from a group consisting of credit cards, checks, money orders, gift certificates,

incentives, online electronic currency, Automatic Teller Machines, and stored value cards, wherein funding using online electronic currency includes determining a plurality of online electronic currency balances in a plurality of accounts, and aggregating an amount of online electronic currency from the plurality of accounts.

43. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the control further comprises:

compiling records of purchase transactions completed through the surrogate electronic system;

presenting at least one list of merchants rank ordered according to the compiled records.

44. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the control further comprises controlling information provided through the surrogate electronic system from the at least one electronic commerce system.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein controlling information comprises:

monitoring data streams;

performing pattern recognition on data streams transferred from the at least one electronic commerce system;

determining content of the data streams; and

controlling information provided from the at least one electronic commerce system in response to the content.

46. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 45, wherein controlling information includes at least one operation selected from a group consisting of inserting additional information into the data stream, substituting information in the data stream, filtering information in the data stream, and removing information from the data stream.

47. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein controlling information comprises:

assigning a surrogate electronic mail address to a user that is mapped to an actual electronic mail address of the user;

providing the surrogate electronic mail address to the at least one electronic commerce system in response to requests for the actual electronic mail address;

filtering and categorizing electronic mail received from the at least one electronic commerce system, wherein sensitive information of the surrogate electronic system is removed; and

forwarding the filtered electronic mail to the actual electronic mail address of the user.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic medium containing executable instructions which, when executed in a processing system, causes the system to control electronic commerce transactions, the control comprising:

funding at least one surrogate account in a surrogate electronic system;
accessing at least one electronic commerce system through the surrogate electronic system;
selecting at least one item for purchase from the at least one electronic commerce system;
selecting at least one credit card account in the surrogate electronic system;
determining an amount due to complete at least one purchase transaction on the at least one electronic commerce system;
transferring funds equal to the amount due from the at least one surrogate account to the at least one credit card account; and
executing the at least one purchase transaction using the at least one credit card account; and

reconciling transactions for the at least one credit card account, wherein

reconciling includes:

maintaining a surrogate system ledger including at least one balance for the at least one surrogate account and at least one corresponding purchase transaction record;

periodically receiving a credit card account statement ledger including purchase transactions resulting in a change in the at least one balance; and

using the credit card account statement ledger to adjust the surrogate system ledger.

50. (Original) The electromagnetic medium of claim 49, wherein funding comprises placing funds in the at least one surrogate account from at least one fund source, wherein the at least one fund source includes at least one fund source selected from a group consisting of credit cards, checks, money orders, gift certificates, incentives, online electronic currency, Automatic Teller Machines, and stored value cards, wherein funding using online electronic currency includes determining a plurality of online electronic currency balances in a plurality of accounts, and aggregating an amount of online electronic currency from the plurality of accounts.

51. (Original) The electromagnetic medium of claim 49, wherein the control further comprises:

compiling records of purchase transactions completed through the surrogate electronic system;

presenting at least one list of merchants rank ordered according to the compiled records.

52. (Original) The electromagnetic medium of claim 49, wherein the control further comprises controlling information provided through the surrogate electronic system from the at least one electronic commerce system.

53. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic medium of claim 52, wherein controlling information comprises:

- monitoring data streams;
- performing pattern recognition on data streams transferred from the at least one electronic commerce system;
- determining content of the data streams; and
- controlling information provided from the at least one electronic commerce system in response to the content.

54. (Original) The electromagnetic medium of claim 53, wherein controlling information includes at least one operation selected from a group consisting of inserting additional information into the data stream, substituting information in the data stream, filtering information in the data stream, and removing information from the data stream.

55. (Original) The electromagnetic medium of claim 52, wherein controlling information comprises:

- assigning a surrogate electronic mail address to a user that is mapped to an actual electronic mail address of the user;
- providing the surrogate electronic mail address to the at least one electronic commerce system in response to requests for the actual electronic mail address;
- filtering and categorizing electronic mail received from the at least one electronic commerce system, wherein sensitive information of the surrogate electronic system is removed; and

forwarding the filtered electronic mail to the actual electronic mail address of the user.

56-61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein incentives comprise incentive codes resulting from the purchase of a product.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein incentives comprise incentive codes resulting from the purchase of a product.

64. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30, wherein incentives comprise incentive codes resulting from the purchase of a product.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein incentives comprise incentive codes resulting from the purchase of a product.

66. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic medium of claim 50, wherein incentives comprise incentive codes resulting from the purchase of a product.